GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
GM Crops
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has relaxed certain provisions to be adhered to by the applicants seeking No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) from States for conducting field trials on Genetically Modified (GM) crops;
(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
(c) whether the Government is aware of any reports of field trials of GM crops being conducted outside institutional premises; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 178 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2017 REGARDING GM CROPS BY SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH.

(a) & (b) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has not given any relaxation in requirement of obtaining No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from State Governments for conduct of Confined Field Trials (CFTs). However, GEAC in its 130th meeting held on 11.08.2016 took a decision for relaxation of requirement of NOC from State Government for conduct of Event Selection Trials (ESTs) which are small scale experiments conducted strictly within the premises of the institutes. GEAC has not given any relaxation in requirement of obtaining NOC from State Governments for conduct of Confined Field Trials (CFTs). GEAC in its 129th meeting held on 20.06.2016 decided that a decision regarding NOC is to be communicated to applicant within 90 days from the date of receipt of application and if, in the mean time, State Government does not take any appropriate action, the decision is to be considered positive by the applicant.

(c) & (d) No Sir. Biosafety Research Level (BRL) I & II trials are essentially permitted and conducted either in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) or their Regional Agricultural Research Stations or within the premises of concerned Indian Council of Agricultural Institutes (ICAR) or applicants own premises. All confined field trials are strictly monitored by a duly constituted Central Compliance Committee (CCC) having representatives from Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) / GEAC, State Department of Agriculture, Director of Research (DR) of concerned SAUs and other subject matter experts based on the trait selected for the field trial experiment.

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